

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement contained in the Office Action mailed October 28, 2003, Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-31, without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the non-elected claims in one or more subsequent divisional applications.

The Examiner has further required Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The distinct species identified by the Examiner comprise:

A. Species drawn to the embodiment of Fig. 3; and

B. Species drawn to the embodiment of Fig. 4.

Applicant hereby elects Species B, the species drawn to the embodiment of Fig. 4. The election is made without traverse.

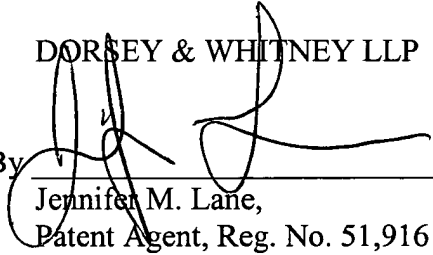
Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely claims 1-31 are readable on Species B. Applicant further submits that claims 1-7, 11-16, and 21-27 are generic claims, readable on both Species. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that should a generic claim be held allowable, Applicant retains the right to enter further claims directed to the subject matter of Species A.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number listed below if any matter can be solved by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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